

APPROVED: Meeting No. 24-90

ATTEST:

Sharon A. Gran

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 21-90

May 15, 1990

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on May 15, 1990, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepien

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Councilmember David Robbins (travel leave)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Sharon Gran.

Re: Worksession with
Traffic and Transportation
Commission

William Meyer, Chairperson, and Commission Members John Borden, Robert Fogel, F. Russell Hoyt, Stanley Klein, Alan Levine, Tom Maddox and Herbert Pennock, discussed the following matters with the Mayor and Council:

Neighborhood Traffic Control

Insofar as development of policies is concerned, the Commission is reviewing regulations as they apply in Montgomery County to ensure uniform applicability in Rockville.

The request to reopen Argyle Street to two-way traffic was discussed. Mr. Meyer indicated that the Commission has formed an ad hoc committee to review this issue.

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The committee will meet in June and includes representation from Hungerford-Stoneridge, the E. Lynfield area and the Commission.

Maintenance of Overhead-Service Street Lights

Discussion followed regarding whether the Commission should take a look at the advisability and cost-effectiveness of undertaking the maintenance of overhead-service street lights rather than paying Pepco a monthly upkeep fee. Mayor Duncan requested that the Commission look into the matter.

Master Plan Update

Mr. Levine reviewed his suggestions for Traffic Issues for the Nineties. He also advised the Mayor and Council that the Commission will be meeting in June with the Planning Commission regarding the Master Plan Update. Mayor Duncan requested that the Traffic and Transportation Commission work closely with the Planning Commission in this matter.

Pedestrian Safety

The issue of a pedestrian safety policy for the City was raised by Councilmember Coyle, especially in view of development in Town Center and traffic in general. This is an issue which was mentioned at recent meetings of the Americana Centre and College Square Homeowners Association. Mayor Duncan stressed the importance of pedestrian safety in the new Master Plan. Councilmember Hovsepian suggested that the pedestrian safety issue be studied citywide.

Mass Transit

Mr. Klein emphasized that the City needs to be more active in following what WMATA is doing vis-a-vis Metro and bus routes in the City. Councilmember Marrinan referenced the proposal to add a parking deck at Metro, indicating that it would be more effective to attract more commuters to use the Ride-On bus rather than park their cars at Metro. Councilmember Coyle noted the importance of a long-term review of how Ride-

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On is used in the City. Also discussed was the City's role as a member of the Transportation Action Partnership.

Re: Worksession with
Science and Technology
Commission

William Haberman, Chairperson, and Commission Members Carie Schaffer and Dorothy Hall, discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council.

Historical Background

Mr. Haberman provided a review of the Commission's previous activities including referrals from other Commissions such as the Planning Commission's referral of the underground power transformer issue.

Future Role of Commission

Discussion followed regarding the need to utilize the Commission's expertise on a more regular basis. Councilmember Coyle inquired as to the status of the emergency preparedness presentation prepared by Commission member Schaffer last year. The City Manager responded that although the City is obligated to Montgomery County for emergency preparedness, the issue will be revisited. Suggestions of future work items for the Commission offered by Councilmembers Coyle and Marrinan included:

- o review of use and neglect of chemicals in schools;
- o participation in Shady Grove Life Sciences Center (Mayor Duncan suggested that the Commission schedule a representative to come to one of their meetings);
and
- o wetlands mitigation.

Mayor Duncan agreed that the Commission should review the wetlands mitigation plan in connection with Ritchie Parkway and that the Recreation and Park Advisory Board should also be involved inasmuch as portions of Dogwood Park are included in the plan.

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Re: Budget Worksessions

In response to Mayor Duncan's question regarding the increase in the City's total expenditures between FY89 and FY90, the Director of Finance stated that the FY89 figure did not include some of the funds, but that from FY90 on, the reporting will be consistent. Mayor Duncan requested that staff go back to FY87 and include the funds which were previously not reported.

Public Works

The City Manager advised that the Public Works budget for FY91 includes funds to maintain the same high level of service as currently provided. The emphasis is on refuse collection, with continuation of Phase I of the Super Service into Phase II during FY91. The impact of the County's tipping fees was noted as well as the increase in sewer and water charges resulting from debt service created by the new bond issue.

Discussion followed regarding the recently implemented Super Service and how it is progressing in relation to staff projections. Mr. Goodin commented that the newspaper collections are approximately 15% ahead of projections while yard waste collections are below estimates attributable, in part, to the cost of the bags. It is anticipated that Giant will decrease the price of the bags when the recycling of yard waste becomes countywide.

Citizens have been very responsive to the new services offered, i.e., collection of toxic wastes and the special collections (for a fee).

In response to Councilmember Hovsepian's question regarding fees and credits, Mr. Goodin responded that this represents monies collected from the auction of used vehicles.

Mayor Duncan referenced the number of vehicles and equipment and the proposed increase from 300 to 305. Staff advised that major equipment pieces are included in the number of vehicles. Staff was requested to provide information as to what vehicles are

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planned for purchase and projected costs.

Mayor Duncan requested a breakdown of assignments of the 11 new temporary employees. He also requested detailed information regarding the concrete maintenance program, indicating that some of the work performed by the contractor has been unsatisfactory.

Police Department

The City Manager stated that the Police Department continues a number of significant community-oriented policing programs, including the Lincoln Park drug initiatives. He explained several amendments to the original budget for the Police Department as follows: deletion of \$34,000 for mobile portable radios; addition of accreditation process for Police Department in the amount of \$25,000 and recommendation for implementation of DARE program at a cost of \$31,500 for a net increase of \$22,500.

Councilmember Hovsepien asked how much money was received from Montgomery County for police services. Staff explained that the County receives \$2 per capita from the State and that funds are allocated to the City based upon patrol activity and the number of sworn officers.

Councilmember Marrinan asked if the costs of DARE and the additional officer would be eligible for a County match, and staff responded "no."

Mayor Duncan asked if the funds for the accreditation process are in the budget, and the City Manager responded that they have found a way to fund it. Chief Treschuk outlined the specific amounts required for the accreditation process and indicated that it would take approximately 18 months for completion of the process. The City Manager will circulate information on accreditation. Mayor Duncan asked that the DARE program and accreditation be added to the issues list.

In response to Mayor Duncan's question regarding the increase in salary monies for Field Services, Chief Treschuk noted that the figures include a 5% adjustment per

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the FOP agreement as well as a realistic estimate of overtime for both the sworn and non-sworn officers.

Community Services

The City Manager commented that the most significant change in the department is the relocation of the Youth Services Division to the Bouic House. The department is continuing to respond to implementation of the recommendations of the Child Care Task Force and will be pursuing the Community Partnership Grant.

Councilmember Hovsepian questioned the source of the grants and was advised that the Youth Services grants come from the State and County and applications are made annually. Special Services grants come from Federal funds through the State.

Councilmember Hovsepian commented that a number of years ago a local newspaper publicized the Holiday Food Drive and that contributors were listed in the newspaper. Josephine Roberts indicated that she would pursue the reinstitution of such a program.

In response to Councilmember Coyle, staff indicated that there is no appreciable backlog in human rights cases and that they did not feel that the recently adopted amendments to the Human Rights Ordinance would create a significant change in the workload.

Josephine Roberts indicated that they are assessing child care needs of City government employees and are working closely with the County.

Councilmember Coyle asked if there has been an increase in services to Hispanics and Asians and was advised that there has been.

Community Development/Planning

The City Manager reported that monies are available in the budget to update the Master Plan. The decrease in expenditures and a like amount in grants-in-aid for FY91 was attributed to the fact that the UMTA Grant has not been received.

Councilmember Coyle referenced County Councilmember Hanna's proposal to bridge

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the gap between jobs in the County and housing and asked if the City has been approached by the County to participate. The City Manager noted that the City will coordinate and cooperate with the County if such a plan emerges.

Mayor Duncan asked if the City should be pursuing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the State. Staff responded that if the City elected to apply under the small cities block grant program, the City would have to compete for funding. Staff feels it more appropriate to receive the funds through the County which does not involve competition.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m., to convene again in Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. on May 21, 1990, or at the call of the Mayor.